



ASDA  
OFFICIAL  
RULEBOOK

# FORWARD

This is the official handbook of the Alberta Stock Dog Association (ASDA). The rules contained herein that pertain to the Association as well as the running of sheep dog trials, cattle penning and the classes of dogs and handlers, are considered to be comprehensive and complete, notwithstanding any typographic or grammatical errors or any changes made by membership and/or the directors that may be included in future updates.

The Alberta Stock Dog Association was formed in 1982, its main aim to promote the use and ability of working stock dogs through the sport of dog trialing. The Association also is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the working stock dog.

The Association serves as an information center for its members and the general public on matters pertaining to sheep dog and cattle penning trials. These shows spark the interest of many a livestock handler who may have previously been unaware of the uses a dog could be put to on a farm or ranch.

The Association also strives to dispense information as to the methods of training working stock dogs to their full potential. Training clinics for both dogs and handlers are organized. These clinics are held for all handlers from novice to professional and for dogs at all stages of their development. We welcome members who have an interest in any breed of stock dog.

The ASDA adopts the USBCHA (United States Border Collie Handlers Association) judging guidelines.

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# SANCTIONED TRIALS

The following criteria must be met to sanction a trial:

## 1 - Advertising:

- (a) Trial organizers will be responsible for providing prior 45 day advertising on the ASDA Website-Social Media source.
- (b) The association's intent is to assist trial organizers in promoting their events, while consistently notifying our membership of all sanctioned events.

## 2 - Trial Dates:

- (a) An organization has first priority to the dates they used in the preceding year. In order to maintain priority, the organization must apply for sanctioning at the annual meeting.
- (b) For unoccupied dates, the first organizer to apply (with a Trial plan, which meets the ASDA standards) will be sanctioned. The consent of the first Trial organizer must be obtained before a sanction is given to another show on the same date.
- (c) Fees: \$3.00 per run will be taken off of every entry, as the sanctioning fee.

### **3 - Application for Sanctioning:**

- (a) Must be communicated to the Trial Director using the ASDA trial approval form.
- (b) Must include a rough course description.
- (c) Must include any unusual rules that will be in force.
- (d) Must include a list of possible judges.
- (e) Sanctioning will be given to out of province trials.
- (f) A run is considered sanctioned.

### **4 - Disputes:**

The Trial Director has the authority to sanction a trial. In the case of a dispute, an appeal may be made to the executive of the ASDA. The ASDA will not entertain a grievance without a written complaint and a fee of \$50 within one hour of the incident. The grievance will be addressed by the end of the day. If the grievance is upheld, the \$50 will be refunded; otherwise the \$50 will be kept by the ASDA.

### **5 - All Handlers:**

Sanctioned trials are open to all handlers; non-members cannot collect ASDA points nor can they qualify for the year-end trials until a membership is bought.

### **6 - Order of Running:**

The order of running is determined by "drawing for position" by the Trial Secretary prior to the trial. The dog's names will be drawn, but handlers will not be forced to run dogs back to back. The order of run is the order of run.

### **7 - Trial Organizer:**

Has 14 days to get the results of a sanctioned trial to the statistician and to provide the sanctioning fee to the ASDA.

## 8 - Class Requirements for Points:

Each class must have the following minimum entries for points to be awarded:

Novice Class	5 dogs
Intermediate Class	5 dogs
Nursery Class	5 dogs
Pro-Novice Class	10 dogs
Open Class	10 dogs

## 9 - Prize Money:

Sanctioned Trials must advertise in advance possible payouts and payout placing's.

## 10 - Judges:

A trial director can ask for guidance from the ASDA for a suitable judge if required. The ultimate decision rests with the trial director.

## 11 - Sanctioned Trial:

Must include a rough course description. This implies a national open field style course of 850 meters including the outrun and the drives or as near to this as possible. The Novice, Intermediate, Nursery and Pro-Novice field trials are shorted versions of the above.

# GENERAL RULES FOR SHEEP & CATTLE TRIALS:

## 1 - Damage to sheep:

A competitor whose dog damages the sheep shall be liable to pay the damages to the Association.

## 2 - Commands:

Dogs may be directed by voice or whistle. Handlers may carry only a stockman's cane or show stick.

## 3 - Over driving:

Exhausting sheep through much running and faulty work may, in extreme cases, disqualify, or the dog may be allowed to continue with loss of points according to the Judge's decision.

## 4 - Gripping or biting:

If a dog bites a sheep the dog may be disqualified and removed, or the dog may continue according to the Judge's decision. In either case biting or gripping shall involve a loss of points.

## 5 - Abuse:

Abuse of dogs or livestock seen by the Course Director or Judge will result in forfeit of all prizes by that handler at that trial.

## **6 - Incompetent dog:**

The Judge may terminate the run of any dog judged incompetent of the work assigned.

## **7 - Insufficient merit:**

The Judges may stop a competitor at any point of the trial or withhold any prizes on the grounds of insufficient merit.

## **8 - Unfinished Work:**

A dog which fails to complete the work assigned in the time allowed shall be allowed the points earned up to the expiration

## **9 - Tied score:**

If two or more handlers stand equal in total points for first place, the judge shall settle priority. Any other placing is decided by:

- (i) Their points for the outrun, lift and fetch; or
- (ii) By a run off

## **10 - Re-runs:**

The judge may stop a dog at any point and order a rerun if he considers the circumstances warrant such action. In the case of a re-run being ordered because of a wrong number of sheep having been let out, or sheep being wrongly marked or one or more cattle being unsound for working, the Judge shall decide whether the re-run shall be from the beginning or from which point it is to restart. If decided that the re-run start at any point other than the beginning, the points scored up to the point of restart shall stand.

## **11 - Any person:**

Who attempts to interfere with or influence the Judge or directors while in discharge of their duties, or who, while on the premises uses contemptuous or abusive language to a judge or director in consequence of awards made against him/her shall forfeit his/her right to all premiums which he might otherwise be entitled to at that trial. Any handler wishing to sit with the judge needs to address the judge beforehand; permission is at the judge's discretion.

## **12 - Non-contesting dogs:**

May be removed from the trial grounds if warranted by the trial director.

## **13 - Dogs:**

No dogs are allowed on the trial field or arena trial grounds at any time prior to their run.

## **14 - Patron Co-Operation:**

The proper conduct of a sheep dog trial requires that conditions be as nearly equal for all contestants as possible. All patrons are asked to be considerate of this need.

## **15 - The Directors:**

Are not by law responsible to anyone, exhibitor or spectator, for any loss, damage or injury which may occur to a person by any animal or article or things on the premises of the show. The directors will, of course, take reasonable precaution to protect all persons and property on the premises.

## 16 - Youth Class:

A youth 16 and under may run any dog in the Novice class. If you want to take a coach with you to the post, it has to be known at the time of entry. All money and points will be forfeited and the handler will follow all ASDA rules.

## 17 - Trial Organizers:

At the request of a trial organizer any member's ASDA privileges may be suspended for non-payment of entry fees.

## 18 - Competitors:

All competitors are expected to be ready for their run when called; anyone failing to answer the call within five (5) minutes will be disqualified.

## 19 - Trials:

An Arena Trial and Field Trial can be held on the same day.

**\*\*\*THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL\*\*\***

# **ARENA TRIALS:**

## **1 - Trial grounds:**

Arena trials are run in varying areas, such as rodeo arenas (indoor and outdoor). The grounds chosen should be in a controlled area.

## **2 – Courses:**

A variety of courses are utilized and often the courses are determined by the trial director:

- (i) The course must be approved by the trial director or their appointee and must be fair and safe.
- (ii) All trials involve an outrun, lift, fetch, drive and pen. (Refer to Appendix II course diagrams)
- (iii) There are no International rules governing cattle penning trials. The ASDA rules have been adopted as per USBCHA Guidelines.

## **3 – Judging:**

Arena trials are judged on the number of stock through obstacles and penned in the least amount of time.

# FIELD TRIALS:

## 1 - Trial grounds:

Field trials are run in large open fields. The grounds chosen should be in a controlled area.

## 2 – Courses:

A variety of courses are utilized and often the courses are determined by the trial director:

- (i) The course must be approved by the trial director or their appointee and must be fair and safe.
- (ii) All trials involve an outrun, lift, fetch, drive and pen. (Refer to Appendix II course diagrams)
- (iii) Some also include a drive and cross-drive.
- (iv) There are no International rules governing cattle penning trials. The ASDA rules have been adopted as per USBCHA Guidelines.

## 3 – Judging:

Generally field trials are timed events with points being awarded for each head of livestock, which is negotiated properly through the course.

## FIELD AND ARENA RULES:

1. Minimum of (3) three obstacles, including a pen. Chutes and alleys should be reasonable distance apart, with panels being reasonably secure.
2. Must be a drive somewhere in the course.
3. Minimum (3) three head of stock.
4. Awarded (1) one point per obstacle and pen.
5. At least (1) one sheep or cow must complete each obstacle before proceeding on to the next obstacle.
  - (v) Retries are handler's choice - if a handler decides to retry obstacles the stock must be taken back within reason (Judges Discretion) to the end of the previous obstacle with the stopwatch running.
  - (vi) Pen – when the gate is open you can retry the pen. You are awarded (1) one point per sheep penned.
6. Knocking over an obstacle may result in all points lost for that obstacle. No deliberate contact to force a sheep through an obstacle or into the pen will be allowed.
7. Minimum (1) one Judge.

**\* Trial Courses for all levels must follow guidelines as per the ASDA handbook for sanctioning of trials.**

# TYPES OF TRIAL COURSES

## DOUBLE-LIFT SHEEP DOG TRIAL COURSE:

A double-lift course is used for the finals at some trials. The dog must lift the first group of sheep and bring them to the center of the course through the fetch panels. This group of sheep is left there and the dog is re-directed back with a "look back" command.

The second group of sheep is located in the opposite corner of the course and are brought through the fetch panels and joined with the first group. The entire flock completes the gather and is driven throughout the drive and back to the shedding ring. The marked sheep are shed off and penned which finishes the double lift.

## DOUBLE LIFT POINT BREAKDOWN

Outrun each 20 points X 2 = 40 points total

Lift each 10 points X 2 = 20 points total

Fetch each 20 points X 2 = 40 points total

Drive = 40 points total

Shed = 20 points total

Pen = 10 points total

FOR A TOTAL OF 170 POINTS

## **BRACE SHEEP DOG TRIAL COURSE:**

The brace class involves working two dogs together as a team. Competing in the brace class is a refined version of using two dogs together at home for handling livestock. On the outrun one dog is sent to the left (come bye) and the other to the right (away to me). Ideally, both dogs should arrive behind the sheep together. Both dogs may be stopped before reaching a position directly behind the sheep or they can cross over behind the sheep. Now the dogs must stay on the side at which they lifted the sheep all the way through the course up to the shedding ring (this includes the fetch, drive, cross-drive and back to the shedding ring). Once the sheep are at the shedding ring, one dog is stopped and the other dog is brought in closer to shed the sheep into two equal groups. One dog pens the first group of sheep and then guards the entrance, as there are no gates on the pens in brace competitions. The other dog then brings the second group of sheep to the other pen and pens them, ending the brace run.

## **BRACE POINT BREAKDOWN**

Outrun each 20 points X 2 = 40 points total

Lift each 10 points X 2 = 20 points total

Fetch = 20 points total

Drive = 30 points total

Shed = 10 points total

Pen each 10 points X 2 = 20 points total

**FOR A TOTAL OF 140 POINTS**

# CLASSES OF DOG AND HANDLER:

## NOVICE:

The novice class is a handler who hasn't placed more than THREE times in the top 20% of a novice class with any dog. If a novice handler enters an open class, they forfeit their novice handler status and can no longer run in the novice handler class. Field course requirements +/-150 yard outrun. If a Novice Handler enters a trial which does NOT offer the Novice class, they will NOT lose their novice handler status. Cross entering is allowed for the next level however if a dog/handler team places more than TWO times in the top 20% of the upper class that dog/handler team must move up into the next class.

## INTERMEDIATE:

The intermediate class is a handler who hasn't placed more than THREE times in the top 20% of a intermediate class with any dog. If an intermediate handler enters an open class, they forfeit their intermediate handler status and can no longer run in the intermediate class. Field course requirements +/-200 yard outrun. If an intermediate handler enters a trial which does NOT offer the intermediate class, they will NOT lose their intermediate handler status. Cross entering is allowed for the next level however if a dog/handler team places more than TWO times in the top 20% of the upper class that dog/handler team must move up into the next class.

## PRO - NOVICE:

The pro-novice class is a handler who can cross enter into the open class. Cross entering is allowed for the next level however if a dog/handler team places more than THREE times in the top 20% of the upper class that dog/handler team must move up into the next class. Course requirements +/-250 yard outrun.

## **OPEN:**

The open class is for an open dog/handler team. An open handler may cross enter between the pro-novice and nursery class. Course requirements +/-400 yard outrun.

## **NURSERY:**

No level applies to Nursery class (includes all levels of handler). A nursery dog is eligible for the nursery class and or finals if its birthday falls on or after July 1 of the year in which that Nursery final is held. For example, a dog born on or after July 31, 2010 is eligible for the 2013 nursery class. Proof of age may be required from a Veterinarian or birth certificate for a nursery dog.

# **QUALIFICATIONS FOR ASDA**

## **FINALS:**

1. Must be an ASDA member in good standing.
2. Must have competed in at least two ASDA sanctioned events in the discipline entered i.e. field or arena.
3. The top qualifying dogs are eligible to compete subject to the following.
  - i. The number of dogs that will run is 5 Novice, 5 Intermediate, 5 Nursery, 10 Pro-Novice and 10 Open.
4. The Trial Director will determine the maximum number of dogs depending on time and stock constraints.
5. In the finals, a dog obtaining sufficient points may be eligible to run in more than two classes (or levels). To qualify, the dog must have competed with an ASDA member at an ASDA sanctioned trial once during the trial season.

## POINT RATING SYSTEM:

Trial year and points schedule runs August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31, as per USBCHA for all trials. The movement between levels by handler/dog teams and the year-end awards for points (for the top two dogs in each class) will be handed out at the Annual General Meeting. Points are accumulated in the following manner:

1. In order for points to be awarded, the trial must be an ASDA sanctioned trial and the handler an ASDA member.
2. Each class must have the following minimum entries for points to be awarded:
  - (i) Novice Class - five (5) dogs
  - (ii) Intermediate Class - five (5) dogs
  - (iii) Nursery Class - five (5) dogs
  - (iv) Pro-Novice Class – ten (10) dogs
  - (v) Open Class – ten (10) dogs
3. Points will be accumulated from:
  - (i) The number of trials less one if five or less trials are held.
  - (ii) The number of trials less two if more than five trials are held.
4. This pertains to all the above classes. It equalizes the point system for handlers who are judging trials.
5. The top placing 20% of all dogs competing in a sanctioned trial run on stock will acquire points based on the total number of dogs running in each trial.

## **DIRECTORSHIP/EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**

1. Only members of the ASDA voting membership are eligible for election to the Board of Directors.
2. A Director must be 18 years of age.
3. The election of the Board of Directors occurs at the ASDA General Meeting.
4. The board of Directors elects an executive among themselves.
5. The executive of the Association is free to select the Secretary/Treasurer of their choice, whether or not this person is a Director of the Association.
6. A Director may only hold any or each of these offices for 2 years in succession (President + Trial Director). After a one year absence from executive office an individual may again let their name stand for re-election.

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

1. Membership is open to any person who is in agreement with the aims and purpose of the Association.
2. Membership fees expire annually on August 31st.
3. A member wishing to terminate his/her membership may do so upon written notice to the Board of Directors.
4. Any member of the ASDA who resides in Canada is eligible to become a full voting member of the Association, and have all rights and privileges associated with this membership.

5. Voting Members have the right to vote on all ASDA general business when attending general meetings.
6. Members will receive general news, financial reports and the meeting minutes by regular mail, email or in the ASDA Website-Social Media.
7. Members residing in Canada have the right to run for the Board of Directors that consists of a maximum 9 ASDA members; however no less than 65 percent of the Board of Directors must be Canadians, resident in Alberta.

## INSURANCE

### Commercial General Liability

Aggregate Limit \$2,000,000

Coverage A – Bodily Injury & Property Damage \$2,000,000

Coverage B – Personal Injury \$2,000,000

Coverage C – Medical Payments (per accident) \$25,000

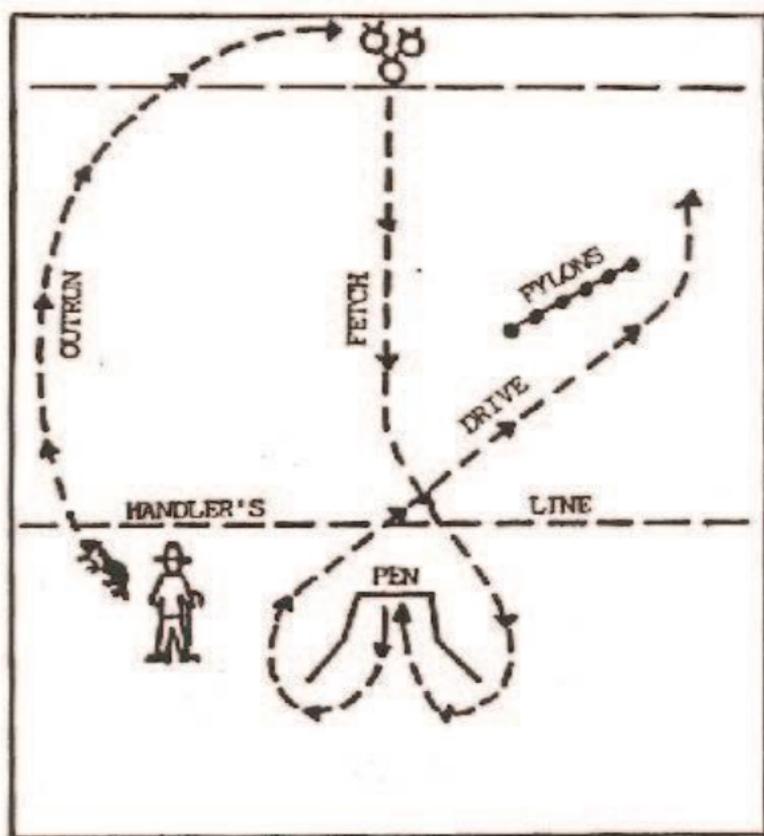
Coverage C – Medical Payments (per person) \$5,000

Coverage D – Tenants' Legal Liability Broad Form \$100,000

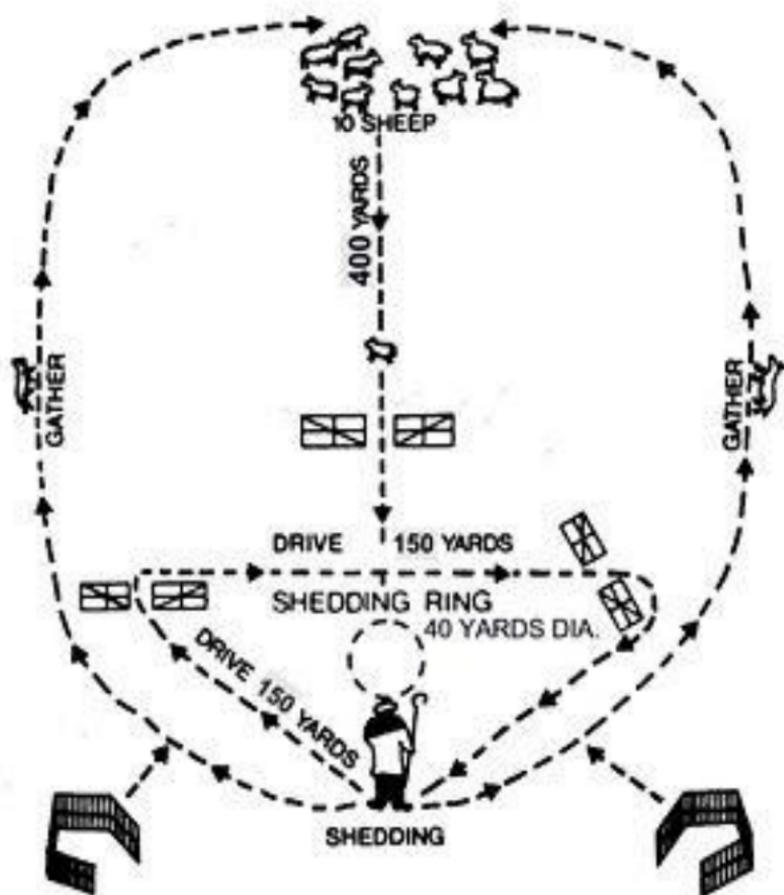
- S.E.F. No.99 Excluding Long Term Leased Vehicle Endorsement
- Misinterpretation of Date Exclusion Endorsement: Liability
- S.P.F. No. 6 Supplementary Non-Owned Automobile Liability Policy : Section A – Third Party Liability

# APPENDIX I - COURSE DIAGRAMS

## CATTLE PENNING DIAGRAM







## DOUBLES COURSE